

NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) 2023–2024 Seminar Series

Botanical Use for Health in the Caribbean and Mexican Diasporas

Ina Vandebroek, Ph.D.
The University of the West Indies
Mona, Jamaica

Wednesday, November 8 • 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET

Join the [Webinar](#)

Meeting number: 161 772 1548 Passcode: ODSseminar (63773646 from phones)



Ina Vandebroek is an ethnobotanist at The University of the West Indies (UWI) in Mona, Jamaica. She specializes in community-based scholarship, exploring the interplay between Caribbean biological and cultural diversity. She brings more than 20 years of experience in research and international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and in New York City with the Caribbean and Mexican diasporas. Her work focuses on the plants, traditional knowledge, and cultural beliefs and practices integral to the health, well-being, and subsistence of local communities. Dr. Vandebroek was born in Belgium, lived 16 years in The Bronx in New York City and relocated to Jamaica in 2021. She is fluent in Dutch, English, and Spanish and conversant in French and

Jamaican Patois. One of the applications of her research is the development of curricular materials and training activities for healthcare providers and medical students to foster culturally sensitive healthcare that incorporates Caribbean and Latinx patients' cultural knowledge, beliefs, and practices. She also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *Economic Botany*, the journal of the Society for Ethnobotany.

Recent Publications

1. Vandebroek I. Traveling traditions: Dominican ethnobotany in service of caring for the community. In: *Decolonizing Paradise: A Radical Ethnography of Environmental Stewardship in the Caribbean*, ed. R. Diaz, pp. 203–230. New York: Peter Lang, 2023.
2. Pieroni A, Vandebroek I, Prakofjewa J, Bussmann RW, et al. Taming the pandemic? The importance of homemade plant-based foods and beverages as community responses to COVID-19. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 2020 Dec 9;16(1): 75. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13002-020-00426-9> PMID: 33298108 PMCID: PMC7724619.
3. Vandebroek I, Pieroni A, Stepp JR, Hanazaki N, et al. Reshaping the future of ethnobiology research after the Covid-19 pandemic. *Nature Plants* 2020 Jul;6(7): 723–730. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41477-020-0691-6> PMID: 32572213.



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Understanding of Dietary Supplements**